

BAYONET. 179

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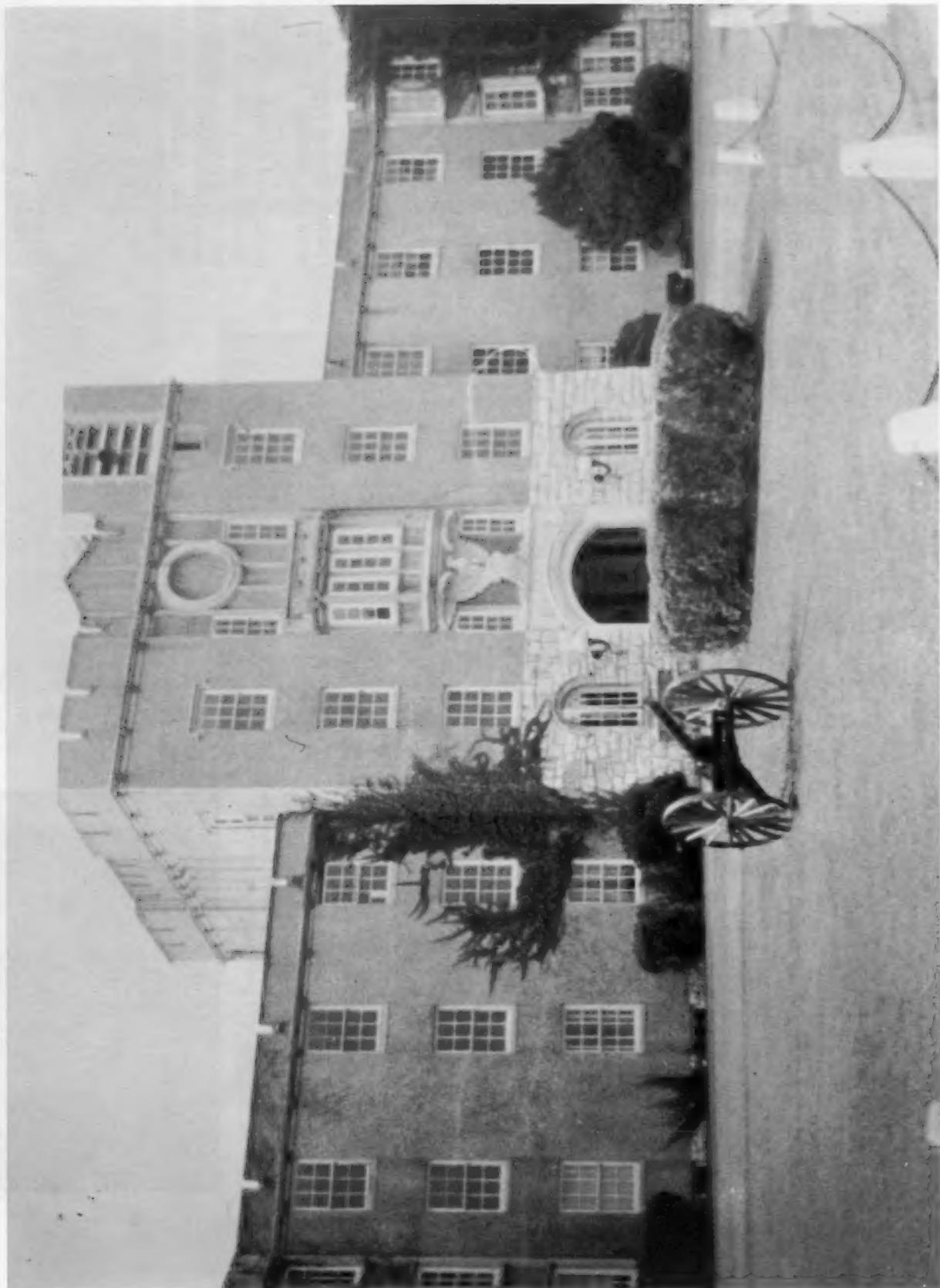
Vol. 33

Number 1

September 20, 1974

Augusta Military Academy

Fort Defiance, Virginia 24437



6-0-0 —

by Frank Geddie

Commenting after the 1973 season, Coach Sivert Josephson stated that "for a team with such little depth, spirit and teamwork, combined with experience and ability, gave AMA the best football team and season it has seen in a long time."

That was last year when the Blue Streaks turned in an outstanding 5-0-1 record. The question many are asking is "Can we do it again?"

Twenty-five prospects have presented themselves for the football team. Of these, however, only eight have previously played for Augusta. Among those who have distinguished themselves and earned a starting spot are Charlie Livick, who will play center and John Tyminski, a junior, who promises to be a standout as a guard.

Smarter than you may think

by Jorge Cordon

Summer classes are different. Differences include the length of classes, which are two hours, and the fact that the work of a complete year is covered in just a short period of six weeks. For many people, it's difficult to become accustomed to the differences, but most do come out ahead in the end.

Usually one comes to summer school to catch up in a course he failed during the winter or just to obtain some extra credits. Talking to summer students, one learns that it is obvious that coming here for the summer is better than staying in their home public school.

Not only can a student take more courses here, but there is more individual attention. In the long run this leads to a better attainment of the subject.

Unlike many schools Augusta offers classes at the sixth and seventh grade levels. Col. John Dekle and Major Ed Hart, assisted by Susan Hart, were kept busy challenging over half the summer school population who was enrolled at this level.

Providing guidance and motivation in the upper school were Captain Ernest James in history, Major James Hogg in economics, Captain Michael Ridge in reading, Lt. Robert Moore in English, Lt. William Bullock in driver's training and Captain Willard Shirkey in math.

As in most new situations, many students had difficulty adjusting to the teacher's system, which is the military manner acquired during the winter. Many of the students, however, liked the disciplined environment and plan to return for the winter session.

With all academic settings, studying is an important part and summer school is no exception. Though two hours of studying may seem like a long time to some, it quickly passes and students find themselves enjoying one last hour of freedom before bedtime.

But best of all, according to one student, is that there are no uniforms to wear and hair can be worn at any length and "you can feel you're a common school boy."

Coming to summer school may be smarter than you think.



Can it be done?

New talent includes Michael Bocock of Dayton, Virginia and a graduate of Turner Ashby High School. Bocock excelled on offense last year and is in line to start as quarterback.

Practice for the new season began on September 8 in anticipation of the opening game against Fork Union Military Academy on September 28. For the first week, practices were held morning and afternoon, but with the opening of school, practice is now held once a day.

Coach Josephson, assisted by Lt. William Bullock, spent much time during the summer preparing and planning plays and strategy for this season. At this point an unnamed observer sees an improvement, but the coaches, when asked about the prospects, give a more cautious, "Wait and see."



With long hair and sandals becoming the rule for the summer, Jack Harris enjoyed the informality of dress as he worked in class. (Photo by Pope)

Major Wright Goes to Fort Hood

After four years at Augusta, Major Merlyn G. Wright, Senior Army Instructor, has been assigned to Fort Hood Texas.

Having earlier in the year received orders to Alaska, Major Wright and his family were in the process of packing when it was learned that these orders had been cancelled due to a governmental cutback. In mid-June, after a month of uncertainty, he received new orders and on July 23, he reported to his new post.

Coming to Augusta from a tour in Vietnam, Major Wright quickly adjusted to state-side life again. As SAI, he saw that Augusta earned the Honor School with Distinction rating for the Junior ROTC program for the past three years (1974 is yet unknown).

Looking back, the Major said that his major accomplishment here was the Field Training Exercise conducted in May, 1973 with the assistance of Army Special Forces from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. This week-long exercise concentrated on wilderness survival and warfare. It was conducted in the nearby Alleghany Mountains under the supervision of both Augusta personnel and the U. S. Army.

In addition to his assigned duties, Major Wright was active in other ways. He acted as a sponsor to both the Color Guard and Roller Rifles by traveling with them to parades, basketball games and other special activities.

In the summer of 1972 he arranged for the summer school students to visit the Indian Town Gap Military Reservation where summer training is held for ROTC students.

Active and interested in athletics, Major Wright served as an assistant coach for the football team.

Replacement for Major Wright is Major John W. Dompe who has just completed a tour in Thailand.

Coming to Augusta in 1971, M/Sgt. Donald Barger will report to his new assignment in Germany next month. Serving as coach of the Rifle team, Sgt. Barger had several very successful and undefeated teams during his time here.

Remembered more because of his unique personality, he was popular as a teacher and adviser to cadets. Never fearing to voice an opinion, cadets could depend on him to offer sound and frank answers to their questions.

Army trust and confidence in both these men in reassigning them to Augusta beyond the normal two year tour may serve as testimony to the work these men did.



Engrossed by the surroundings, Kirk Pope, Carl Schmidt, David Murphy, and Jerry Heath found fence sitting very entertaining on the Fourth of July. Kirk also learned that Staunton had more to offer than he had previously thought.
(Photo by JRM)

Eagerly checking to see that they have really received their diplomas are summer school graduates John Vintila, Robert Jones, Frank Geddie, Corey Koenig and Hayes Dickinson.

Ding Dong

by Robert Jones

During a recent survey taken at AMA, it was interesting to find that most of the students liked everything about summer school except getting up. But it wasn't getting up that bothered them as much as how they were gotten up.

Every morning promptly at 7:30 you would be awakened by the hoofs of a corpulent-like mortal. This peculiar species would come to your door and say something like, "Good morning, Robert." It was such a good-natured voice it would make a person sick.

This creature, whose midsection is prominently displayed, would then tip-toe to the belltower and precede to ring the bell. Now you would think that most people would ring it about five times. This man, however, does not believe in the vital statistics. He would strike the bell anywhere from twenty to thirty-five times.

Seeing him at breakfast was the last you saw of this creature for the day unless you were lucky and had him for a class.

But when taps struck, this stout-like organism would come out of his cave and haunt the students of AMA once again.

This being was none other than Lt. Robert Moore.

a pleasure?

by Jorge Cordon

Improvements at Augusta often go unnoticed by the cadet corps. Most of the major projects are undertaken during the summer, and this summer is no different.

Now a reality, the new infirmary is finished except for a few minor details. The modern building with many conveniences unknown in the old infirmary was completed in a short four months. Augusta's hypochondriacs will now have to move over as everyone will want to enjoy the pleasure of being sick.

Gone is the gray of the PX building. The building, which houses the PX, barbershop, Shippelts and the game room, is now a light brown tone. This along with the new construction has brought some life to the back of the grounds.

What about the rooms many will ask? These too have been taken care of. The painting staff, headed by Col. Herbert Lucas, has repainted every room in barracks. Scraping off the old before adding the new has made this a very difficult job. Davis Hall has received much of the effort as the rooms were painted a light yellow color.

Sickness



To catch up on lost sleep seemed to be the dream of every student. Bob Jones discovered the opportunity and made the most of it.
(Photo by JRM)



Dear Patron:

The Bayonet invites you to subscribe to the Augusta Military Academy newspaper. The cost is only \$5.00 for the 1974-1975 school year, which is no increase over last year.

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Corey S. Koenig

Summer school had been in session for a long and routine four weeks. A majority were in a state of ennui and feeling very apathetic. But to come was a long awaited break for a week of day-long, individual trips. Accompanied by Col. John Dekle and Captain Ernest James, the week turned out to be an enjoyable success.

At the start of the week (Sunday, July 14), previous plans had to be altered on account of Blue Bomb II, the new bus, being inoperable without inspection or registration. At first, plans were to utilize the facilities of Todd Lake for a cookout and a swim.

Battlefield Educates

Then with the aid of a borrowed bus from Massanetta Springs in Harrisonburg, plans to observe New Market Battlefield and Natural Chimneys were fulfilled. After a short forty minute drive, the bus arrived in New Market. After seeing a movie tracing the history of the Battlefield, the group scattered to take in the grounds on their own. After a couple of hours, the summer schoolers, looking back on an interesting educational experience, again loaded the bus.

The bus began its back-track down I-81 to Natural Chimneys. Upon arriving, there was an hour to sightsee or rent bicycles. Then the food supply came through with a cookout. A little happier and fatter, the summer school group started off the evening with exploration of the trails and the chimneys, which continued to the time of departure. Back to school after a short ride, the bus welcomed many.

Safari in Virginia

Pegged as the second most popular trip by the students, Monday fulfilled the expectations. Characterized by lengthy bus rides and almost intolerable heat, the day still turned out great. The day was composed of a bus ride through Richmond and on to Doswell, Virginia for a visit to the recently constructed Lion Country Safari.

The bus tore its way through the man-made safari with the group peering intently at the strange and exciting animals. A pre-recorded tape and the knowledge of Col. Dekle gave the bus an oral account of the safari. Upon leaving the safari, the group devoured a packed lunch and set out to explore the amusement area, still in the process of construction. The Kings Dominion Lion Safari was limited but thoroughly enjoying.

As the group loaded the air-conditioned bus from the intense heat, sighs of relief were heard and the bus departed for Richmond. The evening was concluded with town leave for everyone along with a well-needed grant of spending money. A long bus ride, terminated at midnight by its arrival at AMA, saw weary students groping for their beds and sleep.

A friend to all, Captain Ernest James became acquainted with Bingo during a visit to Lion Country Safari. Capt. James teamed with Col. John Dekle to accompany the students on four days of trips which gave all a needed break in the action. (Photo by Pope)



Enchanted by this strange phenomenon, summer students discovered something new and vice versa. (Photo by Pope)

Local Sights Attract

Tuesday rolled around rather rapidly as the mixed day began. First was a visit to Grand Caverns. A guided tour, totaling one and a half miles, proved to be a valuable experience. Bizarre rock formations as well as a slight chilliness was experienced throughout.

A quick ride to Harrisonburg left the group for some town leave and lunch. However, the latter of the day still remained. This time the AMA bunch entered a more private atmosphere as they ventured to Seawright Country Club. A small, private club, Seawright had a large swimming pool and various activities. The evening was capped with a cookout highlighted by barbecued chicken. Once again the trek back to Augusta left off a sleepy group.



THREE

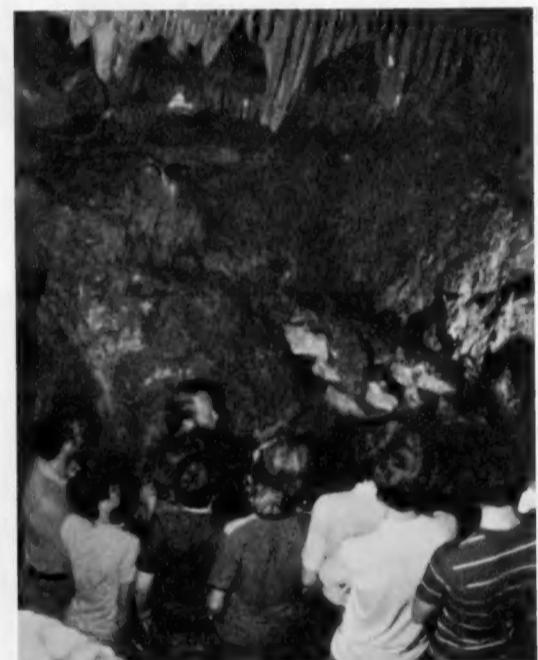
Best for Last

As the last and most awaited day began, much excitement hovered in the air. The trip was to Lakeside Amusement Park in Roanoke, Virginia. Roanoke was one and a half hours away, yet it seemed forever as the group anxiously awaited arrival.

Finally Roanoke came into sight and the day began. First was lunch at Crossroads Shopping Mall. Then came Lakeside. The day droned on as the AMAers rode ride after ride. Departure was delayed, however, as a few strolled into unknown territory and had to be located. Finally a fatigued group ended up happily in bed.

Thursday consisted of a late reveille which was taken advantage of by 95% of the students.

At last a satisfying week came to an end. The group was ready to complete the two weeks of school left in the summer. But behind them was left a week of significant fun and traveling with memories destined to linger.



Amazed by multishaped rock formations, summer schoolers enjoyed a refreshing walk underground. (Photo by Pope)

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Impossible dreams of winter, liberal hair style and informal dress, became a reality during the summer session.

HOLIDAY INN

Innkeepers James Staton, Downtown and R. Winkleman, I-81 North welcome all patrons to the Staunton area. A special reminder is made of the Billy Budd Restaurants and the banquet facilities offered by each inn. It is hoped that Holiday Inn may be able to make this visit to the area an enjoyable one.

Downtown

North I-81

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